

RADIALLY SEGMENTED ZONE OF FOCUS ARTIFICIAL LENS

CROSS REFERENCES TO CO-PENDING APPLICATIONS

This application is related to application Ser. No. 07/088,428, filed Aug. 24, 1987, "Laminated Zone of Focus Artificial Lens"; application Ser. No. 07/088,413, filed Aug. 24, 1987 "Cylindrically Segmented Zone of Focus Artificial Lens"; and application Ser. No. 07/088,412, filed Aug. 24, 1987, "Multiple Element Zone of Focus Artificial Lens".

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention pertains to an implantable intraocular lens, and more particularly, pertains to a lens containing radially segmented lens elements.

This invention relates to lenses which have discrete areas which serve to bring impinging rays to a focus in a specific area of the focal plane. Such lenses are called zone of focus lenses and are particularly useful for implantation into the eye as a substitute for the natural lens since, when in combination with the brain, the lenses effectively replicate the ability of the natural lens to bring objects at varying distances to a sharp focus.

The invention relates specifically to a zone of focus lens in which the lens is radially divided into pie-shaped lens elements extending from the lens center. Each element serves to bring the impinging rays from an object at a predetermined distance to a focus on a particular region of the retina. By selecting various powers for the lens elements, it is possible to have an object at a given distance brought to an acceptable focus by at least one of such lens elements. In this manner, an in-focus image (sharp image) is created on a particular portion of the retina serviced by that element. It has been found that the processing of the image by the brain results in the selective consideration of the sharpest image and the virtual discard of the other, out-of-focus images created by other segments.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Limited attempts to produce a lens having areas of varying powers have been made. There have been many attempts to produce implantable lenses which serve for both close and far seeing, similar to the bifocal spectacles. In general, such lenses have been produced with two regions having different powers. The light which impinges on the retina passes through one region to the exclusion of the other. In such a system, only one region of the lens is used at a time, and there is no accommodation by the brain to reject an out-of-focus image. Great care and accuracy must be used in the preoperative measurements since both the near and far powers must be accurately determined. Since the near and far powers are not specifically interrelated, the inventory requirements are compounded since a variety of near powers must be available for every far power.

The present invention overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art by providing a lens which includes radially segmented lens elements where each lens element or group of lens elements is of a different power.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The lens is a composite of pie-shaped elements, each of which has a distinct power and focal length. Each element brings the impinging rays to bear on a predeter-

mined portion of the retina, which may be either unique to that element or shared with other elements of like power. The lens elements are selected to have a sufficient range of powers to accommodate the projected use. That is, the value of the power and the number of elements will be determined by the projected use. Most uses can be accommodated with a lens having two or three powers to accommodate objects at near, far and intermediate distances. These powers can be distributed among a like number of elements or a number of elements which is two, three or even more times the number of powers. The distribution of powers among the elements need not be done equally. For example, if most of the sight is required at close distances, the number of elements for this distance can be increased and the number of elements for far vision correspondingly decreased.

Accommodation of the brain to such an arrangement may be enhanced by adding a distinctive color to the elements of like power. This approach may be utilized where loss or impairment of color vision is of little consequence.

Elements of differing powers can be provided by grinding or otherwise forming a uniform lens surface over a composite structure of pie-shaped elements having differing indices of refraction.

In the alternative, the pie-shaped elements can be fabricated of like material and the differing powers obtained by grinding, molding or otherwise shaping the surface of the individual pie-shaped element to provide individual curvatures.

Lens is a generic term for intraocular lens, intracorneal lens, or contact lens.

It is a principal object hereof to provide a lens incorporating a radially segmented zone of focus lens.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a very low cost zone of focus lens which will make the replacement of a defective natural lens available to many who cannot now afford the operation.

It is another object of the invention to provide a minimum cost zone of focus lens which does not require either an extensive inventory of various powers and combination of powers, or extensive preoperative measurement prior to implantation into the eye as a replacement for a defective lens.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a very low cost approach to the replacement of a defective lens by providing a very nearly universal lens which provides vision adequate to allow a normal life style.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Other objects of the present invention and many of the attendant advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals designate like parts throughout the figures thereof and wherein:

FIG. 1 illustrates a plan view of a radially segmented zone of focus lens according to the invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the radially segmented zone of focus lens taken along line 2—2 of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 3A and 3B illustrate schematic isometric views of an optical system in which the radially segmented